

BIOGRAPHY

OF

PRINCESS TOPAZE.



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*Exhibited - Aquarium, Westminster January and
February 1893 - See Telegraph January 31st
Her*

BIOGRAPHY OF PRINCESS TOPAZE.

PLACE OF BIRTH.

Princess Topaze was born at Buenos-Ayres, but her father and mother are both French and from the age of four years she has always inhabited Paris. The hazard of travels caused her to be born in the Argentine Republic but she is in fact a thorough Parisian.

AGE-WEIGHT AND SIZE.

„Her birth certificate registers from 15 to 16 years of age and her weight is but 15 lbs. Her height is 26 inches, her wrist measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches round, and her hand from the wrist to the extremity of the third finger is the same. Her waist measures eleven inches and her foot is but four inches in length.“

Extract from „Le Temps“ of Paris Sept. 15th 1892.

The Princess has a complete set of teeth, the same as other young girls of her age and of normal height. At her birth, Princess Topaze,

measured but ten inches in height and weighed between 20 and 24 ounces. She was brought up on „the Bottle“ until she reached the age of nine years and at $12\frac{1}{2}$ years she attained the age of puberty. Princess Topaze in this way passed from babyhood and subsequent childhood to young womanhood in the shape and size of a babe still at her mother's breast. Until she reached nine years of age, her growth was proportionate, but from that age she stopped growing altogether; it was at this age that she attained her maximum height. Compared with the famous Tom Thumb, Princess Topaze is an inch or two shorter. She is therefore, as it has been often asserted, the smallest midget of modern times.

HER FIGURE.

What strikes one the most after her microscopic height is the perfect symmetry of her body. Princess Topaze has in fact nothing in common with most of the celebrated dwarves; she is just as well proportioned a pretty as they were deformed and ugly. This fact led to her being called by one of the most prominent doctors of Paris: „A phenomenon amongst all phenomena.“ This is the first time such plupical beauty has been observed in a dwarf who in most cases resembled the gnomes of Goya,

where as the Princess is a veritable miniature of Watteau. This almost unique fact in the history of midgets, has of course contributed in no sleight degree, to the celebrity attained, by this wonderful subject. She possesses all the form of the woman in miniature: the bust, the arms, the legs, the hands, the feet are works of art of nature. Below is an extract from the certificate of Doctor Potin of the faculty of Paris.

„The bust presents nothing abnormal there „is neither scoliosis or Pott's disease so that „the head does not sink down on to the „shoulders The superior and inferior „members do not present any deformily, nor „any swelling either at the wrists or ankles.“

Certificate dated Paris 9/1/92 signed Potin. Signature legalised by the Commissaire de Police of the VIIIth arrondissement.

HABITS. CHARACTER.

Princess Topaze partakes of precisely the same food as ordinary individuals.

She has a weakness for liqueurs and choice wines. Champagne, she adores, especially Cliquot.

She is nervous, rather irritable and of an incredible vivacity.

She has a passion for music and sings and dances with perfect correctness.

HER FAMILY.

Her father was quite a giant and her mother is also tall and robust. Her brothers and sisters are all of good stature and perfectly formed.

Princess Topaze has been brought up in the midst of princely luxury, her family in Buenos Ayres being in possession of a considerable fortune, which however was wrecked by political convulsions, terminating in the death of the head of the family. It was then at the age of four that Princess Topaze, at that time no taller than an ordinary bottle, came to France. She settled down in Paris and lived on the remains of her shattered fortune. She received, nevertheless a brilliant education. She herself fixed the age at which she would show, in public: viz. 15 years.

HER SUCCESS.

Determined not to present to the public an inferior exhibition, it was as a veritable artiste that Princess Topaze resolved to appear before a Parisian audience. With this object she perfected herself in the Terpsichorean art under the guidance of an eminent professor of

dancing and she made her first appearance in Paris with the Spanish Bolero, the hornpipe and the Oriental dance, introducing successive and instantaneous transformations and with a special appropriate costume for each dance. Anxious that no detail should be neglected some rich costumes were placed on order with a fashionable costumier, who surpassed himself, on this occasion, in producing some marvellous results. It was at the Cirque d'Été, under the management of M. Franconi, the most amiable of men, that the Princess made her first appearance.

Her reputation was at once established; all Paris wished to see her. All the principal papers, headed by „Le Temps“ devoted leading articles to her. A continual stream of reporters coming to her doors to solicit interviews and throughout the whole day carriage after carriage drew up depositing their occupants to inscribe themselves at her hotel for private soirées. The very evening of her first appearance this infatuation commenced to be afterwards approved by the fashion. Impossible to describe the enthusiasm of the audience at the sight of this microscopic prodigy. Her passage to the stage erected in the ring for the purpose of her dances was a triumphal march obstructed by crowds anxious to have a closer view of her,

to embrace her or to shake hands with her. It was in the midst of the frenzied applause and enthusiastic hurrahs of an audience conquered at first sight and amongst whom were to be reckoned all the notabilities in the Fine arts, sciences and finance that Paris contains, that the Princess all sparkling with diamonds and resplendent in the richness of her costumes went through her performance. An artiste in every sense of the word, endowed with extraordinary intelligence, she dances with exquisite grace and possesses an extremely expressive countenance. Loving her profession to distraction had she been of a normal height she would certainly have figured as an artiste of the first rank in a first rate theatre. As it is Paris will see her on one of its largest stages interpreting the principal part in a Pantomime written expressly for her by one of the best Known authors. The evening of her first appearance was as we have said a complete triumph.

At the close of her performance she was carried through the audience, standing on the hand of her impresario, throwing thousands of kisses and shaking hands with some hundreds of people to the accompaniment of the enthusiastic plaudils of the thousands assembled. The Princess was, that evening, compelled to return before the public 8 times in the midst of

an enormous number of bouquets of flowers through which she had to walk up to her waist.

Never has the curiosity of the public been so aroused as upon this occasion.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

LE TEMPS.

„ Princess Topaze is a little phenomenon, no higher than that, about 26 inches, whose light and graceful movements in a spanish costume or a navy blue jersey are truly marvellous in the spanish Bolero and the Sailors hornpipe. Most charming is this little lady in her chignon, with her large eyes overflowing with malice and her little diminutive body resembling a babe at the breast whose nurse one involuntarily seeks“

LA PETIT PRESSE.

„Very curious and very attractive are midgets, of course when this freak of nature does not present itself in a grotesque form or in a deformed shape, but simply as a stoppage of natural growth that one imagines

„oneself in presence of a curious doll of an artificial
 „création. Such a one at present exhibited in the Champs
 „Elysées measures about 26 inches. She is alert, wide
 „awake, speaks with zest. She is Princess Topaze.“

LA LIBRE PAROLE

mentions the: „tremendous Success of Princess Topaze
 „at the Cirque d'Eté“

„Le Figaro“, „Le Petit Journal“ and other
 papers also sang the praise of this sympathetic miniature.



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